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CONSIDERING METHODS OF BREAKING WITH GERMANY

Cabinet Members and Senators a Unit That Germany's Challenge Must Be Met

NIGHT OF REFLECTION TO DECIDE ON ACTION

Three Propositions Under Consideration Are: To Break Off Diplomatic Relations With Germany at Once; To Delay Action Until Some Overt Act Has Been Committed or to Redefine the Position of the United States, With Final Warning That an Offense Means a Diplomatic Break—Sentiment of the Senators Was Against Sending Any More Notes.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The submarine menace sweeps on and every hour draws the United States nearer a break with Germany.

No restraining developments appear to stem the tide. Official Washington is convinced the crash is only a matter of time and a question of forms.

Challenge Must Be Met.

A long session of the cabinet and a dramatic night meeting of the president and senators at the capitol developed unanimity of opinion that the challenge to the honor of the United States must be met.

The means of doing so appears to be the only question undetermined. When President Wilson and his advisers parted "for a night's reflection," as the president himself put it, apparently it had not been determined whether the United States should delay action until Germany commits an overt act, or whether passports should be handed to Count von Bernstorff with or without a warning note to Berlin.

After the president and the cabinet had been in session more than two hours, Mr. Wilson hurried to the capitol and this statement was issued at the White House:

Something Very, Very Serious.

"The president and the cabinet thoroughly canvassed the situation, but there is nothing to announce. Members of the cabinet, sworn to silence, left at the White House with grave faces. One of them later succinctly broke the rule of silence to say:

"The near future will develop something very, very serious."

Another gave a hint of the probability that some overt act might be awaited, at least a warning given, by saying:

"The last chance has not yet gone. While Germany delays, the great purpose, she has not yet carried it into effect, so far as we know."

The cabinet unanimously agreed, however, that the United States should under no circumstances countenance such an invasion of its rights as Germany's campaign of ruthlessness proposes.

President Conferred With Senator Stone.

At the capitol the president had an hour's conference alone with Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, and then sent out word that he had conferred with all senators. Many of the democrats hurried to his room on the senate floor. Seated there with senators grouped about him, the president gave no indication of a decision of his own, but frankly announced he had come to hear their opinions. To induce open expression he was careful not to specify what he had in his own mind, but invited a discussion of three propositions:

Three Propositions.

To break off diplomatic relations with Germany once and deliver to Count von Bernstorff's passports tomorrow.

To delay action until some overt act has been committed against the rights of the United States.

To redefine the position of the United States, as Germany has brought in submarine controversy with a final warning that an offense means a diplomatic break.

The sentiment of a large majority of the senators was against the last course.

Favored Breaking Off Relations.

Senator Stone and Senator Lewis favored breaking off relations with Germany, but did not intend to invade American rights, but were for meeting any such invasion with an immediate severance of relations. Other senators were so confident that Germany's new war zone proclamation meant invasion of American rights that they favored breaking off relations immediately.

All understood that President Wilson had not made up his mind whether to proceed, as proposed by Senators Stone and Lewis, on the assumption that American rights would not be violated, or whether to consider Germany's announcement as ground in itself for action.

Night's Reflection.

Without disclosing what decision, if any, he had reached, the president left the capitol, suggesting to senators that there should be a night's reflection and some action by word or deed before Monday.

Joint Session Not Discussed.

It was said that no joint session of congress tomorrow to enable the president to make an address was discussed.

No Communication Sent.

During the day it had been clear that no communication had been forwarded to Germany nor had Ambassador Gerard been given instructions to inform the government of the state of feeling in the United States. This, of course, has been done through the German embassy, which continues to express the firm conviction that there is little hope of avoiding a diplomatic break.

Most Serious Crisis in U. S. History.

President Wilson's every action throughout the day was predicated on his belief that the United States faces

the most serious crisis in its history. He chose the course of seeking the advice of other men to compare with his own opinions. The overwhelming sentiment of those whom he consulted was in favor of a break in relations.

Only the time and methods were questions of difference. But even after his long talk with the senators he returned to the White House to give further consideration to the problem.

One of the thoughts in the minds of the president and his advisers is the remarkable rupture of diplomatic relations would be so unassailable that it would guide other neutrals.

German Declaration an Affront.

President Wilson was boldly told by most of the fifteen democratic senators in conference with him that the German declaration was an affront to the United States and the civilized world, and that any course other than an immediate rupture of diplomatic relations would be "viewed by the world as cowardice."

Some, however, urged that Germany be notified of a definite time at which diplomatic relations would be severed and a few others urged that nothing be done until Germany by some overt act demonstrated her deliberate determination to affront the United States.

Senate a Unit With President.

All the senators assured President Wilson that whatever course he took would be sustained by a unanimous vote. Senators who participated in the remarkable conference were Stone, Reed, Phelan, Myers, Overman, Brandell, Hoke Smith, Beckham, Vardaman, Pittman, Fletcher, Donnell, Walsh, Lewis and Johnson, South Dakota.

That no republican senators attended the conference was due entirely to the fact that the president did not reach the capitol until the afternoon.

While Senator Lodge, ranking republican member of the foreign relations committee, was in the senate when the president arrived, he did not know of the purpose of the conference and left the building.

At the conclusion of the conference the president, the last to leave, saw the newspaper correspondents and made a brief announcement.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I just came to swap views. I wanted light, and came here to get it."

He was asked what would be done and replied:

"That depends on how I feel in the morning." Then he smiled and added: "Of course, that remark was only a joke. He added that there must be no suggestion of a joint session of congress and that he thought no public announcement would be made tonight."

GUARDING GERMAN STEAMERS

IN PORT AT BOSTON.

Inspection Revealed Nothing to Arouse Suspicion.

Boston, Feb. 2.—An inspection today by customs officials of the German steamers tied up at this port showed "absolutely nothing to arouse the least suspicion," according to Eli Perry, acting collector of the port.

"In every instance," Mr. Perry said, "the customs officials were courteously received. They made a careful and detailed examination of the machinery and went through all parts of the vessels below decks."

Tonight the Boston police detailed three hundred men to guard the port authorities to guard the property of the German liners and in addition the regular neutrality patrol vessels were ordered to redouble their vigilance in the waters adjacent to the German ships. All the police on this special duty are to report directly to the port authorities and receive orders from them.

The inspection today, according to Mr. Perry, was a routine matter in pursuance of the government's policy of looking after the ships of all belligerents in American ports.

STATE DEPARTMENT IS

STILL ISSUING PASSPORTS

To Americans Who Wish to Sail for European Ports.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Formal announcement that the state department is not refusing to issue passports because of the new German war zone decree was made known today in an official statement. Passports issued to Americans sailing tomorrow on the American liner St. Paul or other liners have not been revoked. This statement was issued by the state department.

In order to correct an impression gathered from press reports that the department of state is refusing to issue passports as a result of the German declaration of Jan. 31, 1917, the department of state wishes to announce that it is not declining to issue passports to prospective travelers on this ground or any other ground not stated in this official statement.

Heretofore governing the practice of the department in the issuance of passports.

Cabled Paragraphs

Successes of Central Powers.

Berlin, Feb. 2.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.). During January, says the military critic of the Overseas News Agency, the troops of the central powers captured 29,000 prisoners and 100 machine guns. The central powers also had great success in aerial fighting.

STOCK TRADERS AWAIT

DEFINITE DEVELOPMENTS.

Market Was Weak and Nervous—Weakest in Final Hour.

New York, Feb. 2.—While traders anxiously awaited some definite development in the international situation, the stock market was weak and nervous today. Stocks were weakest in the final hour, when the cabinet was in session in Washington.

One of the features of the day was the broad and constant pressure directed against rail, especially high grade dividend-paying issues. Losses in this group ran from two to almost six points. Minor transportation shares, including so-called reorganizations, also suffered general impairment.

U. S. Steel Held Its Own.

United States Steel was almost the only important stock which failed to fall under yesterday's lowest quotation. Other industrials, equipments, oils and numerous specialties of no specific description were appreciably lower on light offerings.

The highly favorable statement of earnings presented by the Republic Iron and Steel company for 1916 and the increased and extra dividend declared by the American Steel company attracted little attention, although sugar shares were conspicuously strong prior to the announcement of the dividends.

Dealings in Important Stocks.

Dealings of about 1,500,000 shares were hardly more than half those of the preceding day, but comprised a larger number of important stocks, and recessions were effected with such ease as to indicate further liquidation.

Confidence in the outcome of pending complications was expressed by the financial community, but a further hardening of money rates suggested caution and proportion for any untoward emergency.

Decline in Entente Bonds.

Another decline in international bonds with Anglo-French 5 per cent and United Kingdom 4 1/2 per cent to new low levels, called renewed attention to that quarter of the investment market.

NEUTRALITY IS OBSERVED

IN CONNECTICUT PORTS

Collector McGovern Has Had a Conference With Captain of the Wilhelm.

New London, Conn., Feb. 2.—Customs Collector James L. McGovern of Bridgeport today held a conference with Captain Frederick Hirsch, representing the Eastern Forwarding company, and Captain J. Jachems of the steamer Wilhelm, which has acted as a merchant ship in the German submarine Deutschland.

Collector McGovern's duties to see that neutrality is observed in the ports of the state and that it is understood that it was in connection with that duty that he visited this city.

The only statement Collector McGovern made regarding the matter in the phase of the subject was that the United States regulations regarding the observance of neutrality in American waters were not being violated by the Wilhelm and had not been violated in Connecticut.

Those acquainted with maritime law and the instructions from the treasury department assert that the steamer Wilhelm may leave at any time her captain desires, by first obtaining the usual clearance papers. They express the belief, however, that it is little likelihood that her captain would be so foolishly as to make a dash to sea in view of the patrol maintained by the United States.

There is also doubt in the minds of those well informed as to the probability that the United States would sleep either the Wilhelm or any other of the unarmed ships interned in American waters. They point out that German ships belong to private corporations, owned and operated by private commercial enterprises and are not liable to seizure by the United States government, except for some overt act, committed or contemplated.

COLD WAVE COVERS

WIDE TERRITORY

Forty Degrees Below in Minnesota, Below Freezing in New Orleans.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 2.—Twenty-five degrees below zero was recorded here today. Railroad traffic throughout the state and many other parts of central and northwest continue severely crippled as a result of the recent snowstorms.

Pipestone, Minn., reported the temperature there was 46 below, the lowest since the establishment of an official weather observation station.

Truck Destroyed in Texas.

Mission, Texas, Feb. 2.—Truck growing on the lower Rio Grande valley today estimated their losses from last night's freeze would run into millions of dollars.

24 Above at New Orleans.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 2.—New Orleans had the coldest weather today in 1892. A fall of thirty degrees in 24 hours sent the temperature down to 27 above zero.

Cattle Perished in Wisconsin.

Fond Du Lac, Wis., Feb. 2.—One hundred and fifty calves and one hundred cows in open cattle cars perished from the cold at Oakfield, near here, today.

The temperature registered 20 degrees below zero. The train had been delayed several hours.

Taking Torpedoes to Guantanamo.

Newport, R. I., Feb. 2.—The tender Melville attached to the destroyer force of the Atlantic fleet took on a large number of torpedoes today. The Melville will sail tomorrow morning for Guantanamo to join the fleet there.

Sailings Should Be Postponed

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY SECRETARY LANSING

NOT AS A MANDATE

Merely Suggests That That They Await Formal Decision in New Crisis—St. Louis Will Not Sail Today.

Washington, Feb. 2.—All administration officials are gratified and surprised at what they interpret as a virtually unanimous opinion of the country on the situation so unexpectedly precipitated by Germany's submarine warfare declaration. Not only nearly all of the larger metropolitan newspapers reaching the state department.

The second day of the new German submarine warfare apparently has not resulted in any increased sinking of ships. Despatches from London announce the sending to the bottom of five vessels, including one of neutral registry, and a report of the sinking of another.

The Spanish steamer Algorta, of 2,000 tons, was sunk yesterday.

Most of the Activity is Taking Place on the Western Front, Where Small Engagements Are Being Fought.

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